

STATINTL

Moscow Spy Trial Stirs Speculation

By Robert E. Brunn

Staff Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

Washington

With the Soviet Union's spy spectacular launched before cameras and a military board in Moscow, the questions being asked in Western chance-bories are "why this trial now?" and "what of the aftermath?"

Col. Gen. V. Penkovsky, defendant in the Soviet trial, was so highly placed in Soviet power circles that few who study the Moscow condition would be surprised if the charges were later.

As for the political reasons behind the espionage trial, apart from laying the ground-

work for more trials, the show could serve as a typical Communist exercise to tighten the lid on a restless society.

Repression Hinted

The Penkovsky trial, in the light of Soviet Communist history, might well be used to generate an atmosphere of extended popular repression.

Under cover of accusations against "enemies of the people," political enemies can be liquidated. Dissatisfied members of the Soviet "establishment" can be warned to get strictly into line.

Already the intelligentsia have been seen severely warned about their new talk of "freedom"; the Soviet economy has come under a new heavy-handed centralization; "idlers," "spies," and other antisocial elements are being chastised more openly; and there reportedly is an increased overt anti-Semitism.

Colonel Penkovsky was part of the Soviet "establishment." As deputy head of the foreign section of the State Committee for Scientific Research and Coordination, this professional and social contacts were with the cream of Moscow society.

Defense Involved

Pervasive rumors are reported in informed sources here that Colonel Penkovsky gave gifts purchased abroad to a daughter of Alexei Kosygin, a first deputy premier and part of the inner circle since the end of World War II.

As Colonel Penkovsky was high in the defense organization, reports that intelligence head Gen. Ivan Serov (former head of the secret police) has been arrested are given some credence here.

It is speculated that if war is run out from the Penkovsky trial they might quite logically enter the Ministry of Defense.

Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev seems to be in fairly good control of the defense establishment. But it is assumed he has been having his troubles with the military, who are trying to be sure they maintain their "proper" slice of the national pie at a time when the economy is under severe pressure.

Or a New Union

Experts here believe the artists and writers are due for more reprisals before the wave of repression ends. Already some of them have been placed in "hospitals," lost their pensions, or found it hard to make a living. But it is possible some may be banished to camps after trials.

Another form of reprisal might be the breaking up of the unions of the intelligentsia. A substitute could be the formation of a single union carefully tended by "reliable" party members. Or the writers and artists could be attached to factory unions.

Corruption in industry distorts the Soviet Premier and this show trial should serve its purpose in stiffening moral fiber. The Soviet Union has overvalued its food, raw materials, and manufactures. This develops pressures to "beat the game"—graft and corruption.

Food Even Diverted

A small Siberian town reportedly succeeded, through bribery, in having three unauthorized trainloads of food diverted from Leningrad warehouses.

And Khrushchev is still trying to reduce the power of the old Stalinist bureaucracy. The Soviet Communist Party is offering penal and unemployment benefits to those who block his efforts to increase production. Khrushchev says